

# NO REPLY COMES FROM CARRANZA

Failure to Answer May Mean  
Formal Breaking of  
Negotiations.

TIME EXPIRES AT MIDNIGHT

Not Known What Effect Develop-  
ment Will Have on Policy  
Toward Mexico.

(By Associated Press.)  
WASHINGTON, December 26.—Al-  
though General Carranza had not re-  
plied to-night to the ultimatum of the  
United States that he either ratify or  
repudiate the protocol drawn by the  
Mexican-American joint commission,  
the expiration of the time limit was  
not made the occasion for formally de-  
claring the negotiations at an end.

While the time expired at midnight,  
officials were inclined to take into con-  
sideration that a reply might have  
been delayed, and indicated that a  
favorable reply, even though a day or  
more late, would not be rejected, inas-  
much as an adjustment of the interna-  
tional difficulties was the chief object.  
IT MEANS CLOSING.

OF NEGOTIATIONS  
Refusal to accept the terms of the  
agreement under which American  
troops would be withdrawn from Chi-  
huahua, means the closing of negotia-  
tions, the joint commission for an ad-  
justment of the questions at issue  
between the United States and the de-  
facto government of Mexico. What ef-  
fect the new situation then presented  
would have on the policy of the United  
States is not known, but it was said  
at the State Department to-day that  
any further move would be made  
through the usual channels, and not by  
the commission, which for more than  
three months attempted to effect an  
amicable settlement.

Dr. John R. Mott, one of the Amer-  
ican commissioners, conferred with  
Secretary Lane during the day, and  
both expressed the hope that Carranza's  
reply would be favorable. The more  
general opinion among government  
officials, however, was that the Mex-  
ican executive would not alter his re-  
peated declaration that the American  
troops must be withdrawn uncondi-  
tionally, and that any further discussion  
of international subjects could not take  
place while foreign troops "violated the  
sovereignty" of Mexico.

If Carranza persists in his refusal,  
there will be nothing for the members  
of the joint commission to do but to  
hold one last conference to close up  
the record and say good-byes.

Luis Cabrera, chairman of the Mex-  
ican group, spent Christmas here, the  
guest of Ambassador-Designate Arre-  
donado, but was not in communication  
with the American chairman, and re-  
turned last night to New York for the  
meeting with his colleagues to-day.

IF ANSWER IS FAVORABLE

WILL REST ME CONSPIRACIES  
If a favorable answer finally is re-  
turned by Carranza the conferences  
will be resumed to discuss such sub-  
jects as the creation of an interna-  
tional court of claims, the treatment  
of foreigners, sanitation by co-opera-  
tion of international forces, modifica-  
tions in neutrality laws and other  
questions affecting the interests of the  
two countries.

Disruption of the commission would,  
it is believed, make very slim the  
chances of Carranza obtaining a loan,  
without which those high in his own  
government concede it will be almost  
impossible for him to continue the task  
of conducting an administration beset  
by organized bandits.

DENIES THAT TIME LIMIT

WAS PUT ON CARRANZA  
NEW YORK, December 26.—Luis  
Cabrera, chairman of the Mexican  
delegation on the Mexican-American  
Joint Commission, said here to-  
night that no time limit had been  
fixed for General Carranza either to  
accept or repudiate the protocol pro-  
posed by the Mexican-American conference  
at Atlantic City. There was no under-  
standing during the session of the  
joint commission, he added, which gave  
the American commissioners authority  
to impose such a time limit.

General Carranza, Mr. Cabrera de-  
clared, would have ample time to con-  
sider what action he would take. Mr.  
Cabrera said he was surprised when  
informed that a reply was expected  
by the United States government to-  
day. He asserted that he had intended  
to take a vacation beginning to-mor-  
row, but that he had altered his plans,  
and would remain here.

Mr. Cabrera said the relations be-  
tween the United States and Mexico  
have not changed. "Remember," he  
said, "that the next move is not Gen-  
eral Carranza's."

Questioned as to the significance of  
this statement, Mr. Cabrera would give  
no explanation. He said, however,  
that he knew nothing concerning Gen-  
eral Carranza's attitude toward the  
American demand that he ratify or  
repudiate the protocol.

When the joint commission adjourned  
in November, Mr. Cabrera added, the  
understanding of the Mexican members  
was that the joint commission would  
meet on January 2, probably in New  
York or Philadelphia.

Not one word, Mr. Cabrera declared,  
had been said in the session of the  
commissioners concerning a loan to  
Mexico. The call of the Mexican treas-  
urer upon him in New York on Sun-  
day night was a social call only, he  
declared.

SAN LUIS POTOSI REPORTED

CAPTURED BY VILLA  
(By Associated Press.)  
EL PASO, TEXAS, December 26.—A  
report was received late to-day by  
sources known to be close to Francisco  
Villa and by government agents say-  
ing that Villa's forces captured San  
Luis Potosi yesterday. Many foreign-  
ers who left Torreon before Villa at-  
tacked that town recently went to San  
Luis Potosi. No details were available.  
San Luis Potosi is southeast of Tor-  
reon.

(Continued on Third Page.)

# Richmond Times-Dispatch

## BRING YOUR BUNDLE OF CLOTHES TO-DAY

Whole City Asked to Make Gifts  
for Those Who Are  
in Need.

LEAVE AT FIRE ENGINE HOUSE

The Times-Dispatch Will Make  
Collection To-Morrow Morning  
for Benefit of Charity.

(By Associated Press.)  
WASHINGTON, December 26.—  
Revised figures on returns of the last  
election show definitely that neither  
Democrats nor Republicans will have a  
majority of the next House, necessary  
to elect a Speaker, and that a handful  
of independents will determine which  
side will control the organization.

Conceding seats to candidates in pos-  
session of certificates of election, be-  
cause they are certain to participate  
in the organization of the House, the  
persons on the list are: Republicans, 214;  
Democrats, 214; Progressives, 21;  
Socialists, 1; contested, 2. A majority is  
218, hence should either Democrats or  
Republicans win both of the contests,  
they still would be short of a majority.

INDEPENDENTS MAINTAIN

STRICTEST SILENCE  
All of the independents are main-  
taining strict silence regarding their  
attitude on the speakership, but the  
Democrats and Republican leaders are  
agreed on how most of them will vote.  
Reverend, New York, Socialist, 1;  
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## CONTROL OF HOUSE IN HANDFUL OF MEN

Neither Democrats nor Republi-  
cans Have Majority Neces-  
sary to Elect Speaker.

INDEPENDENTS IN SADDLE

They Maintain Silence, but Both  
Parties Work Hard for  
Their Votes.

(By Associated Press.)  
WASHINGTON, December 26.—  
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## German Note Prelude to Series of Delicate Moves in Diplomacy

Opposing Statesmen Feel-  
ing Their Way, While  
Washington Believes  
Peace Step Nearer.

(By Associated Press.)  
WASHINGTON, December 26.—Ger-  
many's reply to President Wilson's  
note is regarded here as having ad-  
vanced the peace movement another  
step, despite the fact that it disap-  
points in not meeting his suggestion  
for an avowal of terms.

The reception Germany's reply re-  
ceives among the entente allies, whose  
statesmen have declared openly against  
such a program, now becomes the point  
upon which a further move is hinged.  
The German note probably is the pre-  
lude to a series of carefully considered  
delicate moves in the great game of  
world diplomacy, all possibly leading  
to an approach for a real discussion  
of peace terms on grounds which all  
the belligerents can feel place them  
at no disadvantage. This is the of-  
ficial view of Germany's reply, so far  
as it has been formulated on the basis  
of the unofficial text. The official copy  
had not been received to-night, and  
President Wilson was keeping his mind  
open.

NOTE IS REGARDED

AS STEP TOWARD PEACE

Neutral diplomatic quarters, too, re-  
garded the note as a step toward peace,  
and rather leaned to the view that  
Germany might follow it with a con-  
fidential communication of some sort  
outlining her terms.

The view of the entente ally em-  
bassies, frankly expressed, was that it  
was not an answer to President Wil-  
son's note, but rather a document for  
circulation in Germany and neutral  
countries, with the object of molding  
opinion to place the responsibility for  
continuing the war upon the entente.  
Among the Teutonic diplomats the view  
was one of surprise that the note pre-  
ceded receipt of the entente reply to  
Germany's original peace proposal of  
December 12.

It was everywhere agreed that the  
principal sticking point was the lack  
of a definite statement of terms such  
as President Wilson asked and such  
as Lloyd George declared the allies  
would require if they were not to put  
their "heads in a noose, with the rope  
at the hands of the Germans."

It is not beyond the realm of diplo-  
macy, however, to find a way to bridge  
the difficulty, and Germany's failure is  
not regarded as a block to the ne-  
gotiations, although it makes them  
exceedingly difficult.

DIVERSITY OF OPINION

AS TO FUTURE SAFEGUARDS

Germany's declaration that she re-  
gards the work of securing the world  
against future wars as a work to be  
taken up after the present conflict is  
not regarded with a diversity of  
opinion. Officials who turned back  
and compared the statement with the  
phrases of President Wilson's note did  
not find the two out of harmony nor  
in disagreement with the President's  
public utterances on a world league to  
preserve peace, yet there was an in-  
definable opinion abroad in official  
quarters that the ending of the war  
and the safeguarding of the peace of  
the future were a joint problem, so  
inseparable that one depended upon the  
other. Those taking this view referred  
to Lloyd George's decision that the  
allies would consider it possible to  
enter a conference only if Germany  
would first openly offer "reparation,  
restitution and guarantees."

German reply is regarded as not  
only failing to do this, but its sugges-  
tion that the work be left for the fu-  
ture, it is feared, may raise a difficult  
obstacle for the allied statesmen to  
surmount with their own people, to  
whom an absolutely durable peace has  
been held out as one of the main jus-  
tifications of the war. It also has been  
shaken by the allied statesmen with  
the terms which would end the con-  
flict.

Unpopular as such a concession might  
be in the entente countries, the very  
enormity of the subject, viewed in the  
cold light of diplomacy, is regarded  
here as sufficient to require a separate  
conference, but one which might pro-  
perly be intertwined with the peace  
meeting.

DIFFICULTIES OF FIRST

PEACE CONFERENCE RECALLED

The difficulties which nearly broke  
up the first Hague peace conference  
were recalled to-day as an indication  
of what would confront the delegates.  
Germany's proposal for "an imme-  
diate meeting of delegates at a neutral  
place" is received as remitting much  
more specific than the original propo-  
sition to "enter forthwith into peace ne-  
gotiations," and to go even further than  
President Wilson's suggestion that  
"soundings be taken." This alone is  
regarded as a step toward peace, de-  
spite the repeated declarations of allied  
statesmen that it was impossible with-  
out a statement of Germany's terms.  
They expect these two positions, ap-  
parently far apart, to be reconciled by  
the art of diplomacy.

How far the United States can or  
will be concerned can only be decided  
by President Wilson. Officials assume  
that Germany expects the United States  
to inform her enemies of her reply.  
Two features of the note becloud the  
situation slightly, and caused some  
concern among officials here. The first  
was the giving out of the note in Ber-  
lin before it had opportunity to reach  
Washington, and the other was the  
connection of the reply with the origi-  
nal German peace proposal. President  
Wilson went to great pains in his note  
to disavow any association, or influ-  
ence with, this proposal, and the asso-

(Continued on Second Page.)

## Do You Play Poker?

Read Curtis's Famous Stories  
Every Sunday in the T-D.

## TEUTON ALLIES SEEK IMMEDIATE PEACE PARLEY

Propose Conference of War-  
ring Nations Be Called  
in Neutral City.

DISPATCH THEIR ANSWER  
TO PRESIDENT WILSON

Fail to Disclose Terms on Which  
Conflict May Be Ter-  
minated.

"FUTURE PEACE" MUST WAIT

Note Says That Can Be Taken Up  
Only After This War  
Is Ended.

## Seek Immediate Exchange of Views

THE Teutonic allies are favorable  
to an immediate meeting of  
delegates from the belligerent states  
at some neutral point, in order that  
an exchange of views with regard  
to peace may be carried out.

This has been declared by the  
German government in replying to  
the recent note of President Wilson,  
suggesting that the belligerent na-  
tions make known their bases for  
peace. It is announced in the note  
that Germany is of the opinion that  
the work of preventing future wars  
can be begun only after the end of  
the present struggle, but that then  
Germany will be ready to collabo-  
rate with the United States "in this  
exalted task."

Nothing has yet come through to  
indicate what will be the tenor of  
the replies of the entente allies to  
President Wilson's suggestion, and,  
so far as is known, none of them  
has yet given any answer to the  
announcement made to them in the  
note of the Teutonic allies that Ger-  
many is ready to discuss peace.

(By Associated Press.)

BERLIN, December 26 (via Sayville).  
Germany and her allies—Austria-  
Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey—to-  
day replied to the note of President  
Wilson in which he asked that the bel-  
ligerent nations state the aims for  
which they were fighting. The propo-  
sal is made by the central powers that  
a conference of the delegates of  
all the belligerents be held immedi-  
ately in a neutral city. The task of pre-  
venting future wars, the official state-  
ment said, can be begun only after the  
end of the present struggle.

The answer, which also contains the  
reply of Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria  
and Turkey, says:

"The high-minded suggestion made  
by the President of the United States  
of America in order to create a basis  
for the establishment of a lasting peace  
has been received and considered by  
the imperial government in the friend-  
ly spirit which was expressed in the  
President's communication."

"The President points out that  
which he has at heart, and leaves open  
the choice of road."

"To the imperial government an im-  
mediate exchange of views seems to be  
the most appropriate road in order  
to reach the desired result."

"It begs, therefore, in the sense of  
the declaration made on December 12,  
which offered a hand for peace negotia-  
tions, to propose an immediate meet-  
ing of delegates of the belligerent  
states at a neutral place."

"The imperial government is also of  
the opinion that the great work of  
preventing future wars can be begun  
only after the end of the present  
struggle of the nations."

"It will, when this moment shall  
have come, be ready with pleasure to  
collaborate entirely with the United  
States in this exalted task."

The answer of the central powers  
concludes with the usual diplomatic  
terms of politeness.

ENTENTE ALLIES NOT

READY TO STATE TERMS

(By Associated Press.)  
PETROGRAD, December 24 (via  
London, December 26, delayed).—Dis-  
cussing the forthcoming reply to the  
peace proposals, the Reich says:  
The official reply cannot state that  
the entente allies aim to bring the Turkish  
empire to an end in order to remove  
forever German aims of world do-  
minion, or that the allies will demand  
reorganization of Austria-Hungary in  
order to make impossible the fulfill-  
ment of German ideas regarding Cen-  
tral Europe, which form the first step  
of their program for world power.  
Diplomacy cannot suggest these terms  
until the allies have laid the firm foun-  
dation for success of their present  
military plans. But by saying less,  
diplomacy would acknowledge a result  
of the war unsuccessful for the allies.  
Italy has not occupied Trieste,  
France has not created a firm front  
along the Rhine, England has not  
destroyed the German fleet, nor have  
the allies as a whole succeeded in cri-  
pling the German land forces; and,  
therefore, there are no guarantees for  
the future in national relations which  
will free the world from the oppres-  
sion of militarism."

THE Reich says that even if Germany  
should make the unexpected conces-  
sion of relinquishing territorial gain  
and restoring ante-bellum conditions,  
the aims of the allies would not be ful-  
filled, and that the only terms accept-  
able to Russia would be those dictated  
by herself and her allies.

ITALY NOT AFFECTED  
BY FEELING OF PEACE

(By Associated Press.)  
ROME, December 25 (via Paris, De-  
cember 26).—The feeling of peace in  
the air has not affected in the slightest  
measure Italy's military activity. The